### A QUEEN'S PARADISE.

Gifted Carmen Sylva Writes of the Charms of Her Roumanian Realm.

CUSTOMS OF HER PEOPLE.

Her Entrance to Bucharest as the Bride of the Young King.

THE CHANGES OF TWENTY YEARS.

A Picturesque Old City Transformed Into a Modern Capital.

SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS AND RAILROADS

(WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.)



N board an armored vessel I had jour neved for three days down the Danube, gliding over the large brown waves. which grew larger and larger, like the finale of a sym-

There were receptions at every town and at every village. and my eve could not have enough of the richness of coloring under this eastern sky, which, during the day, was of a turquoise blue, and which melted toward evening into a glowing yellow, besprinkled with gold dust, as the sun, which here seems larger than in more northerly climes, slowly sank to rest. In the pellucid light of late November, against

these undulating stretches of beautiful country, against that black soil which freely gives its riches to those who ask the most of it, against the dusty white stretches of the winding road, everywhere, in fact, the costumes of the peasants gathered to greet me stood out in lively contrast-shirts of a dazzling whiteness richly embroidered in red, black and gold; floating veils of white linen and ivory or saffron hued silk; peony or rich wine colored petti-coats. I had seen the men put their thin, speedy little horses to the gallop, their goatekin mantle falling like another mane on the backs of their steeds. The embroidered blouse which covered their breasts looked like a navy colored tattooing under the broad girdle which held quite an arse-nal of pistols and daggers. The shirt, also richly broidered, fell over breeches of white felt, while their heads were covered with large caps of white fur, from beneath which their long raven black locks escaped and hung over their shoulders.

The Queen's First Impressions.

As I approached these picturesque groups saw supurb figures with faces of a rare beauty, whose gravity but rarely gave place to a faint smile which laid bare rows of rly teeth. And all these strange faces, pearly teem. And an these strange noes, all these aquiline noses, with their delicate, quivering nostrils; these marvelously large eves, black or greenish gray, sparkling with sullen fire, sunken in their sockets, over ing by heavy, straight brows; these burnshed complexions, this sonorous language. n which every now and then there was harsh guttural note, and which was so cloquence by these serious men, these Routunnian matrons, these children with the starry eyes-all these produced upon me and intensity were unknown under our Northern skies. Then, too, I was struck with admiration as I saw how the beautiful face of my young husband was in perfect harmony with the people and the country he had wrested to himself. This, then, was my new fatherland, this Roumania which at first showed me only

the breadth of her melancholy plains, the banks of her great river, her almost unin

habitable marshes where the frogs chanted amid the waving reeds and the stalks of the wild hemp. If there is a difficult path in life it is that of a young foreign princess making her first entrance into her new capi-tal. The faces surrounding you give evidence of but a frigid curiosity, although only some days before every eye which gazed on you was full of tears and every lip trembled, despite the "funrahs!" and the "God bless you, our dear child, our little princess!"

Her First Joyful Experience,

But when I left the station and stepped into the carriage a cry of admiration escaped me. Beyond the waving plumes and glit-tering uniforms, beyond the horses and flags, beyond that set of faces I had caught sight of the city, lying between the hills and spreading along the verdant valleys, with its shining roofs, its hundreds of little churches, its green, vellow or blue housesall this flooded with a brilliant sunlight, which gave even to wood the sparkle of metal, vaguely recalled to me Moscow.

When we were fairly in the carriage I

had to bow unceasingly, which effectually prevented me from taking in any of my new surroundings, especially as the least smile needed an effort on my part and every movement of my eves caused a darting pain to shoot through my head. However, on the long journey from the station to the capital and as we traversed the latter on our war to the palace I saw houses which were too small for their inhabitants, people who scened to touch the roots of their dwellings with their foreheads, women in green and blue petticoats, who all were bodices of snowy white and headdresses made of kerchiefs equally spotless and edged with lace. (All

There is not a window without some pots of geraniums, carmations or mignonetic. On the other limid, the trees have a hard time of it here. The summer burns them and the winter destroys them, while men despoil and cut them in such a fashion that one never sees a fine park, and scarcely ever even a shade garden. The difference in temperature between summer and winter is 70° centigrade, and the Northern plants perish under the torrid sun of August, while the more tropical ones succumb to the snowfalls of January. But the depth of snow preserves the soil from the attacks of the irost and makes Roumania a won derful country for vineyards. There are only three seasons in Roumania, of which only one is pleasant—autumn. There is no spring. The two "sleighing months" relieve one's ears, for at the first snowfall one sees nothing but sleighs in the city and the houses are not shaken by the constant clatter of carriages. Sometimes the snow burtes the low houses of the suburbs, and as many as Il people have perished in a single night at the gates of Bucharest. Not infrequently wolves come into the city.

The snow does not seem to fall, it executes a sort of wild dance up and down and across, so that men and beasts are blinded and wander in a circle, thinking that they are pushing forward. upon all the people assembled there to re-ceive them, upon the red robes of the Su-preme Court, upon the sacred vestments of the Archbishop and Bishops, with their long white or gray beards. Forty couples were married upon that occasion, and all the brides were veils of gold tissue.

"This is the palace," said the King to me.

"Where?" I asked. "Where we are standing," he replied with Then I understood that it is the sovereign

Then I understood that it is the sovereign who makes the palace, just as a stone in a field can become an altar.

That of Bucharest was an old nobleman's house, hastily set in order. The young sovereign had had no time to think of his comfort, for he passed his nights in preparing the labors which entirely filled up his days, and I found on his desk, the day of my arrival, the first sketch of the bridge across the Danube which is now just about

my arrival, the first sketch of the bridge across the Danube which is now just about to be built, after 20 years of patience. No window shut properly in this palace and the damp rose as high as the first story. Indeed, for 20 years I have not been free from fever, and we lost many servants and rare horses owing to the dampness of the

There is but a slight resemblance between Bucharest of to-day and Bucharest as it then was. They have built on an average since that time about 1,000 new houses every year, and have replaced with proper paving the cobblestone and ruts of former days.

Twenty Years' Work on the Palace, The palace, too, has undergone a complete transformation. It is true they have made use of the old palace, which gives the exterior a sort of patchwork effect, but this very thing gives to the interior a touch of homeliness and individuality. A sculptor, a true master of his art, named Sthoe, who receiving all the ladies of the court to find no resemblance between these women of sowith their austere features, but delicate,



pushing forward.

The Land of Embroideries.

ROUMANIA'S QUEEN, CARMEN SYLVA. to the streets we passed through, lined with ittle houses built at random and paved with huge irregular blocks of stone and full of crevices, which caused my diadem and my-self to make many an involuntary bow. That evening there was a general illumina-tion, and in all my life I had never before seen such a sight. In the very streets where to-day one magnificent house elbows another, in which gas and electricity share the honors between them, there were then to be seen only oil lamps and candles, while none of the houses was more than one

The Queen Has the Measles.

The day after that entry into my capital I had the measles. To be ill and to know no one, neither my husband nor my ladies of one, neither my husband nor my males of honor nor the doctors, nor even my maid, was a little hard. It was above all exasper-ating to hear myself called "nervous" by people who knew nothing of my past life, people who knew hothing of my past file, for with my Spartan training nervous and badly brought up seemed to me synonymous terms. Many a proud and silent tear during that time bedewed my pillow.

My first excursions out were a series of surprises. There were picturesque streets in the city in which every doorway was blocked up with piles of stuffs of all colors, with rusty iron and with blue and brown pottery. In other parts were queer com-binations of Lilliputian houses, ridiculously tiny and hidden under the trees, those poor willows from which every year they strip the branches, or the acacias which scent the air of the whole city in the spring. There were opening on to the streets the shops of bakers, cobblers and blacksmiths; innumerable inns where they sold an ardent spirit extracted from prunes and called tzuica. These last were dark, dingy dens in the murky depths of which one caught glimpses of mud-eyed brigands with sad smiles. The urchins bathed to their hearts' content in the lovely mud of the river, wallowing in it with yells of delight; the water carriers drove their mules into it, wading up to their knees into it themselves in order to fill their barrels, while in the deepest depths of the mire one saw confused shapes moving, grayish, hairless bodies, something like the backs of hippopotami; numberless heads with horns that curved backward and black muzzles glistening in the sun; these

Useful Antedituvian Beasts.

Later on I enjoyed a closer acquaintance with these antediluvian beasts, which are so common in Roumania. They give an abundance of rich milk, from which they make a very white but tasteless butter, but which yields an excellent cream. To keep them you have to feed them on dried maize leaves and give them a bed of mire. They die in summer unless they have a marsh, and in winter unless they have an underground shelter and a woollen covering. In the streets or in the country one sees them harnessed one before another to heavily laden wagons, their hoofs sinking in the dust in dry season or in the deep mud when it rains. Speaking of mud, what was not my amazement the first time I was splashed with it to see that that of the principal streets left greasy spots on my clothes, and when I saw them plow! A plow dragged by four or six buffaloes, scarcely scratching the ground with the branch of a tree in place of a plowshare; and they called this

white and headdresses made of kerchiefs equally apotless and edged with lace. (All this white, in the country as well as in the city, strikes one with surprise on one's first arrival until one comes to wear it altogether one's self, as it is the only color which can resist both the sun and the dust.)

What astounds the ear is that each church has only two bells and that the united chimes are produced only by the number of churches; that day in especial the Bucharest churches seemed to me to be innumerable.

The Palace in the Square.

The Palace in the Square.

The central square of the capital, at which I had to stop, was entirely covered with a red canopy, which threw a fantastic light

They are fond of flowers in Bucharest.

graceful creatures who reminded me equally of the society of St. Petersburg and that of Naples. As to the men, they had a Frenchified look, or at least that is the impression they gave me when I saw them next day in the Chamber, to which I paid a state visit. That day I was much amused by the contrast our carriage and procession presented to the streets we nessed through I was marked on the shirt of a young peasant girl that the embroiders. marked on the shirt of a young peasant girl that the embroidery of one of the sleeves crossed on one side the embroidery on the shoulder. I asked her the reason of it.

"Oh' that's called a wandering brook," she

said.

The language of our peasants is as flowery as their fields, and they only speak in metaphors.
"How do you and your husband get on?" I

"How do you and your husband get on?" I asked one day.
"Like the cough and chest."
"How are you going on?"
"Like the dog in the wagon."
"Have you a son?"
"I had two saplings, but the storm beat them down."
A mother's heart cry to her daughter. "Your child is crying. You have let him fall. Don't you know you ought to hold him like a little plnk?"
"How is your betrothed?"

"How is your betrothed?"
"Like the young blades in the maize

"Like the young blanch and the list abfields!"

A Roumanian will never say that he is absolutely well. "Not so bad," is his phrase.
And he will never admit that he is really
ill. You tell him something that seems to
you absolutely convincing. After listening
in silence he replies, "It is possible."

Some National Characteristics. The Roumanian people express every-thing in the dance, the men dancing with men and the women with women. Soldiers in barracks always find a fiddle, a flute or a pagpipe to play some melancholy dance for them. On a campaign when on active service, after the most fatiguing marches, under

them. On a campaign when on active service, after the most fatiguing marches, under shot and shell, they still dance, mocking the projectiles until one of the dancers falls wounded or killed. Their good humor never leaves them even in the hospitals. The wounded amused themselves by inventing little comedies to amuse those who were still in bed, and they played them with a go and dash and a power of imitation that were extraordinary.

Among the finest institutions of Bucharest are the hospitals. They have been so liberally endowed by the former princes that they have to-day a revenue of some \$,000,000 or 4,000,000 francs, and everyone is sure of being received and treated gratis provided there is a vacant bed.

The transformation of Bucharest into a beautiful city according to modern ideas is now accomplished, and it is a city with canals, a water supply and grand buildings, such as the Athensum, the new Ministry, the Bank, the State Printing establishment, the Law Courts, the House of Parliament, etc. The foun, ation of the Bacteriological Institute raises us to the level of the other scientific centers of Europe. But Oriental and picturesque Bucharest—Bucharest with the little houses buried in foliage, covering the space of Vienna, with only 230,000 inhabitants—that Bucharest has disappeared, to give place to a city like all others. It only seems Oriental to those who come from the West. Those who come from Asia cross the Danube with a sigh of satisfaction. "Ahi" they say, "we are in Europe."

Wonderful Progress of Late Years. We are very extraordinary sovereigns, for we wanted to accomplish in 25 years what the others took centuries to do. We have created an army. When the King arrived there was one battery of artillery-now we have 700 cannon. Our first cruiser is but the beginning of a fleet. The State budget when the King arrived was \$8,000,000f.; to-day it is raised to 150,000,000f. Political when the hing arrived was \$5,000,000. Political to-day it is raised to 150,000,000. Political life has become relatively calm and serious and for long periods the Ministers and legislative chambers do not change. Railways furrow the realm in every sense to bring the craps to the sea, cattle to Italy and timber to Panama. There are schools everywhere, and we are indeed in danger of suffering from an almost too rapid development. We even try to have Socialists in order to be at the fore front of modern civilization, only socialism does not easily take in a purely agricultural country, without manulactures, where the farmers naively come to consult their landlords to know whether they will do well to revolt, and if that is really a means of obtaining more land, as the agitators would have them believe.

Roumanis is in the way of becoming all that King Charles dreamed it could become a living artery of Europe. When he offered the young Hobenzollern Prince the crown of the country of whose very existence he knew nothing he opened the attas, took a pencil, and having seen that the line drawn between London and Bombay passed by the principality which called him to its head, he accepted the crown, saying: "Test It is a country of the future!"

Astronomers of the World Will Be Watching Them in August.

THEY WILL BE NEAREST US THEN. Only Sixty Miles in Diameter and Dean

bwift Located Them First.

ECLIPSES EVERY DAY ON JUPITER

IWRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH. The moons of Mars were discovered only 15 years ago. Observations of that planet and its new-found satellites will be made in August by astronomers all over the world. Since the discovery of the moons this is the first opportunity afforded for examining them, inasmuch as they are so small as to be only perceptible at close range.

Once in every 15 years Mars reaches its nearest point to the earth. Eight weeks hence it will be within 35,000,000 miles of us, whereas its greatest distance is 141,000,-000 miles. Great interest attaches to the matter, because this sister world is so much like our own in respect to its climatic and other conditions that it may reasonably be supposed to be inhabited, perhaps by human

When the lover swears by the earth's "inconstant" satellite, it never occurs to him to consider that there are least 20 moons in the solar system. Saturn alone has eight, the biggest of them, "Titan," being nearly twice the size of our moon, and Jupiter possesses four, ranging in dimensions upward from "Europa." just about as large as the orb of terrestrial night, to "Ganymede," greatest of all known moons. The latter has a diameter of 3,480 miles, whereas the moon belonging to this world is only 2,160 miles through.

Some Moons Are Still Hot.

Though our moon is supposed to be dead and cold, similar conditions are not assumed to govern all the satellites of the sister planets. Some of those pertaining to Jupiter are believed to emit light of their own, showing that they are still hot. Howown, showing that they are still hot. How-ever, astronomers are usually eager to find evidence of life on other spheres, even dis-covering on the earth's attendant orb ap-parent traces of mighty works of engineer-ing artifice—the imagined creations of races of beings long extinct—such as the stupen-dous bridge that appears to span a crater of the moon volcano called "Eudoxus."

Eclipses are every-day affairs on Jupiter. Three of its satellites are eclipsed at every revolution of that mighty globe, so that a spectator there might witness during the Jovian year 4,500 eclipses of moons and about the same number of eclipses of the sun by moons. Under such conditions one would become accustomed to a phenomenon which occasionally appals the terrestrial observer. One of Saturn's moons, called observer. One of Saturn's moons, called "Mimas," about half the size of the earth's satellite, is so close to the planet in its circling that it seems to cross the face of the latter at an astonishing rate of speed. Of the seven others, "Titan" has a diameter of 3,300 miles, "Iapetus" 1,800 miles, "Rhea" 1,200 miles, "Rhea" 1,200 miles, "Dione"; and "Tethys" each 500 miles, while "Enceladus" and "Hyperion" are very little fellows. Several of of them in the sky together, with the flaming ring of star dust stretched athwart the heavens, must make a gorgeous spectacle by night on the Saturnian sphere.

Obtaining the Velocity of Light. Through the telescope it is very interesting to watch the shadows thrown upon Jupiter by that giant planet's moons, observation of the eclipses of which furnished the first data for estimating the velocity of light. Uranus has four little moons—"Ariel," "Umbriel," "Titania" and "Oberon"—which, strange enough, with the north and string the search ise in the north and set in the south. single diminutive one belonging to Neptune traverses the sky from southwest to northeast. Neither Mercury nor Venus has any

But the most interesting of all moons are the two that attend Mars, each about 60 miles in diameter. That planet is just one-half the size of the earth; its surface is divided into continents and seas, having as much land as water; it has an atmosphere, clouds frequently concealing its face, and its seasons are about the same as here, though the winters are colder. Because one of its moons travels around it three times as fast as Mars itselfs turns, it appears to rise in the west and set in the east, while the other really circling in the same direction at a speed comparatively slow, rises in the east and sets in the west. Thus both moons are seen in the heavens at the same time,

Dean Swift's Remarkable Guess.

The most remarkable guess on record was made by Dean Swift, who, a century before the moons of Mars were discovered, made Gulliver say of the astronomers of Laputa: "They have found two satellites which re-"They have found two satellites which revolve about Mars, whereof the innermost is distant from the planet exactly three diameters of the planet; the former revolves in the space of ten hours and the latter in 21½ hours." In fact, the inner moon is 10,000 miles from Mars, whereas—the diameter of the planet being 4,000 miles—Gulliver's estimate would place it at 12,000 miles. For the outer moon he gives 20,000 miles for the distance, which is really 15,000 miles. The time of revolution for the inner moon is actually 7 hours and 30 minutes, and for the outer one 30 hours. Prof. Hall has named these moons "Deimos" and "Phobos," after the attendants of the god Mars who are mentioned in Homer's

"Iliad."

Hundreds of minor planets belonging to the solar system, which are only big enough for moons, though not such, have been discovered during the present century. They are called "asteroids" and the three largest of them are "Vesta," "Ceres" and "Pallas." Many of them are only of about the bigness of a good-sized farm. Life upon one of them, owing to the feebleness of gravity, would seemingly be attended with difficulties. One ingenious romancer has described an imaginary journey through space, in the course of which he landed upon a small asteroid, finding it occupied by a single giant. The latter, being displeased with some remarks made by his visitor, kicked him off into space so far that he fell within the attraction of another sphere.

The Two Undiscovered Planets.

To solar planets yet undiscovered moons may belong—for example, to the mysterious "big dark sphere" beyond most distant Neptune, which some astronomers assert the existence of. A similar hypothetical world, alleged to have its orbit inside that of Mercury, is "Vulcan." Science has not accepted the latter, though two observers, Swift and Watson, working independently in Colorado a few years ago, simultaneously declared that they saw it. Watson was so confident of his find that he built a tunnel in the side of a hill, pointing toward the supposed star, with a reflector at the bottom, thinking to see the object better. From the bottom of the well, of course, one can perceive the stars by day with the naked eye. But this enthusiast died without proving his belief. The existence of "Vulcan" and the "trans-Neptunian" sphere has been inferred from otherwise unaccountable perturbations of the known The Two Undiscovered Planets. unaccountable perturbations of the known orbs of the solar system.

A pretty fair notion of sizes and distances in the solar system can be got by selecting a level piece of ground where there is plenty of room, placing there a globe 2 feet in diameter to represent the sun. Mercury can then be indicated by a mustard-seed 82 feet away Venns by a new 142 feet of the can then be indicated by a mustard-seed 82 feet away, Venus by a pea 142 feet off, the Earth by a slightly bigger pea 215 feet distant and Mars by a small peppercorn 327 feet away. On the same scale, a moderate-sized orange one-quarter of a mile from the globe will stand for Jupiter, a small orange two-fifths of a mile off for Uranus and a plum one and a quarter miles distant for Neptuna.



WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH

BY DORA RUSSELL Author of "Footprints in the Snow," "The Broken Seal," "The Track of the Storm," "A Fatal Past," Etc.

SYNOPSIS OF PREVIOUS CHAPTERS,

Two lovers, Sir James MacKennon, Bart., and Miss Miriam Clyde, are standing by the seashore, and the former is urging her to name the wedding day. She pleads for delay. In the meantime an accident occurs, a soldier being wounded by a firing party. Miriam binds up his wound and saves his life. Glancing at each other's face a mutual recognition takes place. On arriving home the doctor who was summoned to the wounded man gave her a note which the soldier had hastily scribbled. It contains the words "For God's sake keep my secret." Miriam, by means of Dr. Reed, sends to her soldier-patient a brief measure, "Do not be afraid!" which he receives as he is lying in the hospital. In the meantime Miriam's mother, Mrs. Clyde, makes up her mind that her daughter shall be married to Sir James in a month, and tells her so. But Miriam, thinking of a life dearer than her own, hanging in the balance, pleads earnestly for more time. Mrs. Clyde writes to her other daughter, Joan, who is married to hard and stern General Conway, asking them to the wedding. Conway thinks it's a good match, but pains Joan by intimating that Miriam should not so soon forget another affair in which his nephew was the hero. He and Mrs. Clyde agree it is best to hurry the wedding for fear Sir James should hear of that, Miriam is obstinate, and gets Sir James to ask Mrs. Clyde for postponement. Colonel Clyde is unable to change Miriam's mind. She worries herself sics, and Dr. Reed is sent for. By means of notes through him, Miriam and Private Dare arrange a clandestine meeting.

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Miriam scarcely knew how she spent the rest of the day after she had received Dare's brief letter. Her mind was in a whirl of excitement, of fear, and also of strange joy. She was going to see him again-Hughsee him in secrecy and danger, but still to

clasp his hand, to be near him once more! She had named a late hour for this meeting, because she knew by 11 o'clock her father and mother were almost sure to have retired for the night. Colonel Clyde was a very methodical man, and when the family were alone he made it a practice to see that all the doors of the house were locked by half-past 10 o'clock, and at 11 everyone was at rest in the Commandant's house.

The keys were left in the locks for Banks to open the doors in the morning, and with the assistance of Ford, Miriam meant to open the back door, go through the garden, and thus reach the west rampart, where she expected to find Dare.

It was a dangerous escapade, and to do Ford justice, when she heard the lateness of the hour that Miriam intended to meet, she believed, Doctor Reed, she said a warning word to her young mistress. "Oh, Miss Miriam, it's not for me to

speak, but couldn't you fix to meet the doctor sometime in the day?" "The doctor?" repeated Miriam, in sur-

"Yes-Doctor Reed; I am sure it would be safer, because, even if you were seen it would not be very strange, but you see going out at night-" Then Miriam understood; she had never

said who it was that she was going out to meet, and Ford had naturally thought it was Doctor Reed because she had written to him twice. "It is better she should think it is Doctor Reed," reflected Miriam; "better anyone than the truth." "I cannot go in the daytime, Ford," she

answered, "I must go to-night at eleven, so "I will do everything I can, Miss Miriam—but still it would be such a pity if Sir

James were to hear."

You see Ford was prudent withal in spite of her coquettishness, and she thought to lose the chance of marrying a baronet for the sake of a doctor was carrying a love of admiration, or love itself, too far. She wished Miriam to become Lady MacKennon, and she thought it rash therefore to run such a risk. James were to hear."

"Sir James will not hear," said Miriam, excitedly, "and even if he did I must go."
"Very well, Miss Miriam, if you are determined to go we must try and arrange so that no one shall ever know anything about it but the desire and our two selves." but the doctor and our two selves."

Then they talked over various plans, and Then they talked over various plans, and finally settled that they were to steal down the staircase together after the rest of the family had retired to bed, and that Ford was to open the back door, let out her young mistress, and wait inside the door until Miriam's return.

"If we are caught!" said Ford, in a half-frightened tone.

irightened tone.

Miriam did not speak.

"Fancy! what would Mrs. Clyde say?"
continued Ford. "My very teeth chatter
when I think of it." She will not know. It is well you have

"She will not know. It is well you have a little room of your own, Ford, or the other servants might have missed you!"
"Yes, Miss Mirlam, and that Jane, the new housemaid, is that spiteful! I think she wants Banks to run after her, but poor

But Miriam was too excited, too impa-But Miriam was too excited, too impatient, to listen to the details of Ford's conquests. She moved about the room restlessly, and Ford took the hint. Then presently she dressed for dinner, though it was two hours before the time. She wished to occupy herself, to be doing something; not to think. But she thought in spite of herself; thought of the man she was about to meet of Hugh Egyrary, now called Dare meet—of Hugh Ferrars, now called Dare— and of the terrible circumstances which had

had to face her mother's keen eyes. There was an unusual flush on Miriam's cheek, Mra. Clyde noticed, and the girl looked absolutely beautiful. The suppressed excitement within made her eyes sparkle so brightly, and Mra. Clyde wished that Sir James had been there to look upon her face. James had been there to look upon her face. Miriam, however, we may be sure, was thankful that Sir James was not there. She would have felt guilty in his kindly presence. But she did not feel guilty before her mother. There was a stronger influence in her heart than her mother's; a deeper feeling than Mrs. Clyde had ever kindled.

Mrs. Clyde talked as usual in her agrees-Mrs. Clyde talked as usual in her agreea-ble fashion, and the Colonel and Miriam answered. There was nothing unusual said by anyone, and presently Mrs. Clyde and Miriam retired to the drawing room and the Colonel remained in the dining room

with his newspaper and cigar.

When they were alone Mrs. Clyde naturally spoke to her daughter about the dresses she would require for her marriage. But Miriam showed none of thelinterest or excitement on the subject which young women generally do. She agreed with what her mother suggested in so indifferent a tone, that Mrs. Clyde felt inwardly aggrieved. But she did not show this. Miriam's illness somewhat alarmed her, and she thought it wiser to be very soothing and considerate.

The coffee was brought in by Banks, and the Colonel reappeared, and the evening passed away very quietly. A few moments before 10:30 o'clock the Colonel looked at his watch, yawned and then rose and left the room to lock up. This nightly duty having been performed, he returned to the drawing room, said "good night" to his daughter, who lightly kissed him on the forehead and kissed her mother, and then Miriam left the room, and Colonel and Mrz. Clyde were alone.

"Miriam looked ware handsome to night"

"Miriam looked very handsome to-night," said Mrs. Clyde, reflectively.
"Yes," replied the Colonel, also reflec-

"I wish her marriage was over now, it would be much better." "Yes," again said the Colonel, and he added, "Well, it soon will be."

added, "Well, it soon will be."

And while her parents were thus speaking of her, Mirlam had gone quickly to her own room, where she found Ford waiting for her in the dark.

"I brought no light, Miss Miriam, for fear of any mistake," she whispered, "That is right; now draw up the blind, and I will place the candle close to the panes—it is nearly time," said Miriam, also in an excited whisper.

It wanted just a quarter to eleven Miriam

It wanted just a quarter to eleven, Miriam saw by her little jeweled watch which was lying on the dressing table, one of Sir. James' many gifts. Only a quarter to eleven! The girl's breath came quickly, her checks flushed and her hands trembled. It was so near what she longed for and yet feared, and a tremulous sigh escaped her parted lips, "Are you frightened, Miss Miriam?"

"Yes," murmured Miriam; "but I must

"Yes," murmured Miriam; "but I must go."

At this moment they heard Colonel and Mra Clyde ascending the staircase on their way to their bedroom, and a moment later abey entered it, and the door was shut.

"Well, I hope they are safe at any rate," whispered Ford.

"We will just wait until it is 11, and then we must creep downstairs," said Miriam. "You had better go first, Ford, and I will follow in a minute or two."

They accordingly waited until the dial of the little jeweled watch told the appointed thour, and then Ford silently, and on tiptoe, left the room, and Miriam listened in agony least the stairs should creak. No, the little handmaiden's light footfall made no sound, and then Miriam equally lightly followed, and found Ford waiting for her in the dark at the foot of the staircase. They did not even whisper to each other, but hand in hand stole silently through the dark passages, with which Ford was very familiar, and soon found themselves at the back door of the house.

Ford had provided herself with a small

equire this, but softly turned the key in the lock, and then quietly opened the doc and the cold night air at once instant

rushed in.

"I will go at once," whispered Miriam;
"stay behind the door, Ford, and keep it closed until I return," and the next moment she had passed out into the darkness.

It was a starlight night, frosty and keen, and a half-moon was shedding a fain; glimmer on the scene as Miriam passed swiftly on. A somewhat neglected garden, for the season was late, lay at the back of the commandant's house, and through this Miriam passed swiftly, until she came to the railings that inclosed it, and as she did so she drew nearer and nearer to the sea. The commandant's house stood on what in Newbrough-on-the-Sea was called the west rampart, below which the waves broke on the rocky cliffs, and earthworks with embrasures, in which heavy guns were mounted, guarded the steep and dangerous coast.

coast.

Between the earthworks and the com Between the earthworks and the com-mandant's garden there was a roadway, and Miriam having opened the garden gate found herself on this. Then she paused and looked timidly round, and as she did so a figure seemed to glide out of the semi-darkness; a figure wrapped in a soldier's clock, and a moment later she heard her

"Miriam?" "Yes; oh! Hugh, dear Hugh!" she which pered, holding out both her hands.

The man she called "Hugh" took them, gazed down into her face with eager eyes, and then drew her passionately to his breast and kissed her lips.
"Once more," he murmured, "once more,

Miriam. She made no attempt to draw herself from his arms; no attempt to turn her face away from his kisses. She raised her dark eyes to his full of love and pain, and for some moments neither of them spoke another

"It is good for you to come." at last said Hugh Ferress. "More than ever I hoped "I came to warn you, Hugh," an swered

Miriam, still in his arms.

"To warn me?" he asked.

"Yes, Hugh, you must go from here; go at any cost. In a few weeks General Conray will be coming here," and Miriam shivered; "and you must not be here when he comes."

"Where can I go? How can I go?" answered Hugh Ferrars with a sudden bitterness in his tone.

bitterness in his tone.

"You must buy your discharge, Hugh, and leave the country; nothing else is safe. I—I—nearly died when I saw you here."

"It was no choice of mine, and but for that accident on the sands you should never have seen me. When I enlisted I expected the regiment was going to India, and I had either to enlist or blow out my brains."

"Hush! hush! dear Hugh," and she clung to him fondly; "do not make things worse; do not make them more miserable than they are by talking thus. But you must not run.

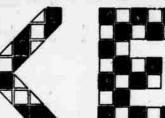
are by talking thus. But you must not run the risk of seeing General Conray."
"Did he suspect me then?"
"He told Joan he suspected you—Oh! Hugh, what I have gone through—God only knows what I have gone through!" And Miriam's head fell upon his breast, and tears rushed into her eyes, and one fell upon his hand.

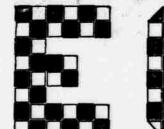
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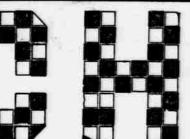
"Oh! do not speak of it," and again Miriam shivered; "but, Hugh, you must go away from here—I will find the money to buy your discharge, and you must go out of England; go to Australia, anywhere—but it is not safe for you to be here. I knew you meet—of Hugh Ferrars, now called Dare—
and of the terrible circumstances which had necessitated his change of name.

The dinner-hour came at last, and Miriam the should find it rusty. But she did not ever much it may cost."

I knew you to be here. I knew you again in a moment, and others might know you too—I will give you the money, how—







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